

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04096 312006Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00  
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O 311937Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9373

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4096

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, CI  
SUBJ: HUNGER STRIKE -- THREE RELATIVES START 24 HOUR FAST IN  
EMBASSY

REF: SANTIAGO 4067 AND PREVIOUS

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1030 HOURS MAY 31 MONICA ARAYA FLORES,  
ANA GONZALEZ GONZALEZ AND MATILDE URRUTIA DE NERUDA CAME  
TO EMBASSY AND ASKED TO SEE THE LABOR ATTACHE.  
THEY INFORMED HIM AND THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT THEY PLANNED  
TO STAGE A 24 HOUR FAST IN THE EMBASSY IN SUPPORT OF THE HUNGER  
STRIKERS OCCUPYING VARIOUS CHURCHES AND THE OFFICES OF  
UNICEF AND THE ICRC. THEY EXPLAINED THEIR ACTION AS  
BRINGING PRESSURE ON THE USG TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED  
IN EFFORTS TO FORCE THE GOC TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE  
RELATIVES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS.

2. POLITICAL COUNSELOR WENT OVER US POLICY IN SUPPORT OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS, EXPRESSING OUR BELIEF THAT GOC MUST EVENTUALLY  
ACCOUNT FOR MISSING PERSONS, AND NOTING THAT USG VIEWS  
HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE KNOWN TO GOC;  
HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE CLEAR LIMITS TO HOW DIRECTLY  
THE USG CAN BECOME INVOLVED IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS SUCH  
AS THE HUNGER STRIKE AND THAT WE WILL NOT GET INVOLVED  
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IN NEGOTIATIONS. POLITICAL COUNSELOR ALSO EXPLAINED  
DIFFICULTIES THAT DECISION TO HOLD FAST IN EMBASSY  
COULD CREATE FOR FURTHER CLOSE CONTACT BETWEEN EMBASSY  
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF RELATIVES GROUP. POLITICAL  
COUNSELOR ASKED THREE WOMEN TO RECONSIDER DECISION TO  
STAY IN EMBASSY FOR 24 HOURS. THEY DECIDED TO PERSIST.

3. ACCORDINGLY WE HAVE MADE INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THREE TO SPEND THE NIGHT, AND THE AMBASSADOR HAS INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS. THE EMBASSY DOCTOR WILL CHECK THE WOMEN THIS EVENING AND AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING, AND WE HAVE TOLD THEM THAT IF ANYONE SHOWS SYMPTOMS OF DISTRESS WE EXPECT THAT SHE WILL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY AND VOLUNTARILY. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CHURCH HAS THE SAME UNDERSTANDING WITH PARTICIPANTS IN THE HUNGER STRIKE (REFTEL).

4. ON AN IF ASKED BASIS WE ARE ACKNOWLEDGING THE PRESENCE OF THE THREE WOMEN AND STATING THEY ARE HOLDING A 24 HOUR FAST IN THE EMBASSY TO PUBLICIZE THE PLIGHT OF THE RELATIVES OF THE DISAPPEARED.

5. COMMENT: THE THREE WOMEN ARE WELL-KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE RELATIVES GROUP. ALL ARE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE POLITICAL LEFT. MONICA ARAYA IS A FREQUENT VISITOR TO THIS EMBASSY. ANA GONZALEZ WAS ONE OF THE THREE WOMEN WHO VISITED THE U.S. LAST FALL AND WAS DENIED RE-ENTRY INTO CHILE IN NOVEMBER (SUBSEQUENTLY PERMITTED IN JANUARY). MATILDE URRUTIA DE NERUDA IS THE WIDOW OF POET PABLO NERUDA. AT 66 SHE IS THE OLDEST OF THE TRIO. GONZALEZ HAS CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR IN THE PAST. ARAYA WAS AMONG A GROUP ASKING FOR AN APPOINTMENT TWO WEEKS AGO, BUT WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING. NONE OF THE  
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THREE ASKED TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR ON THIS OCCASION.

6. THE WOMEN HAVE BEEN VERY EXPLICIT THAT THEIR ACTION IS LIMITED TO 24 HOUR FAST -- RELATED TO BUT NOT PART OF THE HUNGER STRIKE. WE HAVE NO REASON AS OF NOW TO DOUBT THEY WILL DEPART EMBASSY TOMORROW MORNING, JUNE 1, ABOUT 1030 HOURS.  
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## Message Attributes

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